

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BLANTY 00675 071839 Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 IO-12 /147 W

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R 071430 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6148

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BLANTYRE 675

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, MI

SUBJ: REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND MALAWI FORCES

REF: BLANTYRE 667

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. MALAWI NEWS AGENCY (MANA) MAY 7 FLATLY DENIED REPORTS THAT ANY MALAWI OR PORTUGUESE FORCES HAD ENGAGED IN FORNTIER CLASHES AS ALLEGED BY FOREIGN PRESS AGENCIES (REFTEL) . SPOKESMAN FOR OFFICE OF PRESIDENT CATEGORICALLY DENIED REPORTS AND DESCRIBED THEM INTER ALIA AS " MALICIOUS, ILL-INTENTIONED, LIES." " GROSS IRRESPONSIBILITY" OF NEWS MEDIA ESPECIALLY SINGLED OUT. MANA RELEASE CONCLUDED THAT " NOT A SINGLE MEMBER" OF MALAWI ARMY OR POLICE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SO MUCH AS SKIRMISH WITH ANY MEMBER PORTUGUESE ARMY OR POLICE.

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PAGE 02 BLANTY 00675 071839 Z

2. DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES IN BLANTYRE UNAWARE OF ANY EVIDENCE THAT ANY SUCH CLASH, EVEN PORTUGUESE/ FRELIMO, TOOK PLACE. MINISTER OF STATE A. A. MUWALO NQUMAYO, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR TODAY REAFFIRMED GOM DENIAL AND ALSO SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF PORTUGUESE/ FRELIMO CLASH ON MALAWI BORDER.

3. FRENCH CHARGE INFORMED US THAT AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE GOT STORY FROM SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AGENCY (SAPA) WHICH REPORTEDLY GOT STORY FROM STRIND, BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR GREATER PATROL ACTIVITY.

3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT WHILE CURRENT SAR RESOURCES CAN BE DIVERTED TO INVESTIGATE INTELLIGENCE LEAS ON MILITANT ACTIVITIES, THE SAR MISSION TAKES PRECEDENCE AND SUCH DIVERSIONS ARE ON A " NOT TO INTERFERE" BASIS. THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS INDICATE TO US THAT THIS " SAR PLUS" POSTURE AND THE FLORIDA KEYS AND REEF LINE PATROLS ARE INADEQUATE TO OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS OBJECTIVES IN THE BAHAMAS.

A. THE RESCUE EPISODE OF JULY 13-23, 1972 (REPORTED NASSAU 739, JULY 28, 1972);

B. THE ANTI- CUBAN MILITANT ATTACK OF OCTOBER 13, 1972 (REPORTED NASSAU 1033, OCTOBER 16, 1972);

C. A SECOND ANTI- CUBAN MILITANT ATTACK OF JANUARY 28, 1973 (STATE 19490, FEBRUARY 1, 1973).

IN ADDITION, IN THE US- BAHAMIAN FISHERIES DISPUTE WE HAVE BEEN " BLIND" ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES IN THESE WATERS SINCE THE LAST CCGDSEVEN " DAILY SIGHTING SUMMARY" OF JUNE 5, 1972 AND FREQUENTLY ONLY LEARN OF US- BAHAMIAN F/ V CLASHES AFTER THEY OCCUR.

4. A SIGNIFICANT INCENTIVE WHICH WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER THE GOBI IN THE FORTHCOMING MILITARY BASE TALKS IS THE CONTINUING SECURITY AFFORDED BY COGARD PATROLS VS. MILITANT ACTIVITY, BUT THE ANTI- CUBAN CLASHES IN THE BAHAMAS AREA NOTED ABOVE UNDERCUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS OFFER.

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PAGE 03 NASSAU 00588 072118 Z

5. WE CURRENTLY SEEM TO BE FACED WITH ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES AT EITHER END OF THE SPECTRUM: THE PRESENT " SAR PLUS" POSTURE, WHICH IS INADEQUATE TO OUR POLICY REQUIREMENTS HERE; OR A " MARKET TIME" OR BARRIR PATROL APPROACH (OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN ATP-1(A), VOL. 1) FOR WHICH THE RESOURCES ARE CLEARLY NOT AVAILABLE. WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS SOME INTERMEDIATE ALTERNATIVE BASED ON THE COAST GUARD'S BEST PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT AS TO THE NUMBER, FREQUENCY AND TYPE OF PATROLS WHICH

WILL ACCOMPLISH THE MISSIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE MOST ECONOMICALLY.

6. FOR THE SHORT- TERM, RESOURCES WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO COME FROM A REORDERING OF COGARD PRIORITIES TO GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO CCGDSEVEN. FOR THE LONGER- TERM, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT COGARD' S REQUESTS TO OMB WITH FOREIGN POLICY JUSTIFICATIONS.

SPEAR

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BLANTY00675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BLANTYRE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730537/aaaahxqf.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BLANTYRE 667
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971211
Subject: REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND MALAWI FORCES
TAGS: PBOR, MI, PBOR
To: AF
CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM
LISBON
LONDON
LOURENCO MARQUES
LUSAKA

PRETORIA
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005